

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Process for removing contaminants from contaminated soil with the aid of a stripping gas and with a biologically active layer being present in or on the soil, wherein the soil is provided with an impermeable layer at a surface of the soil which extends to the biologically active layer, and wherein the process comprises:
 - a) creating an air guiding layer in the surface of the soil subjacent to the impermeable layer, wherein the air guiding layer extends to the biologically active layer and includes a medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of ~~[[the]]~~ surrounding soil which lacks the medium,
 - b) injecting the stripping gas in the soil below the air guiding and impermeable layers and at least at a ~~[[the]]~~ depth of ~~and/or beneath~~ the contaminants or below,
 - (c) volatilising the contaminants with the stripping gas, and
 - (d) allowing the stripping gas with the contaminants substantially to flow to the biologically active layer at the surface of the soil via the air guiding layer having the medium whose resistance is lower than that of the surrounding soil.
2. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil is created between an area to be remediated and a biologically active layer not directly bordering thereon.
3. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil is created by targeted drying of certain areas in the soil.

4. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the stripping gas is injected at a pressure of at least 1.3 bar.
5. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the stripping gas is injected at a pressure of between 2 and 8 bar.
6. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil is created by installing at least one hollow pipe between the biologically active layer and the contaminated soil.
7. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil consists of a space which may or may not be filled with a material that presents a lower resistance to the stripping gas than the surrounding soil.
8. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil comprises biologically active material and/or activated carbon.
9. (currently amended) A process for removing contaminants from contaminated soil which comprises:
 - (a) providing at least one biologically active region in the soil and an impermeable layer at a surface on ground level of the soil adjacent to the at least one biologically active region;
 - (c) creating an air guiding layer at the surface of ~~[[in]]~~ the soil subjacent to ~~[[under]]~~ the impermeable layer which extends to the biologically active layer by providing a medium in the air guiding layer whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil which lacks the medium;
 - (d) injecting a stripping gas into the soil at least at a depth of the contaminants therein or below;

- (c) volatilising the contaminants with the stripping gas; and
 - (d) allowing the stripping gas with the volatilised contaminants therein substantially to flow to the biologically active layer in the soil adjacent the impermeable layer via the air guiding layer subadjacent the impermeable layer.
10. (previously presented) The process of claim 9, wherein the medium in the guiding layer comprises sand and/or gravel.
11. (previously presented) The process of claim 9, wherein the medium in the guiding layer comprises a dried region of the soil.
12. (previously presented) The process of any one of claims 9-11, wherein the guiding layer comprises a biologically active material.